

Survey of languages

3373. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHACHAN:

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a survey shortly first of its kind in the country to ascertain the languages of various parts of the country; if so, the details in this regard;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to earlier findings 220 languages are spoken in the country;

(d) whether there has been an increase over this figure; and

(e) the department entrusted with the responsibility to conduct the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to conduct a Linguistic Survey of the country, the report of which will be available after 10 years of its commissioning. The total budgetary requirement during 11th Plan period for this project has been estimated at Rs. 280 crores. During the 12th Plan period estimated expenditure is Rs. 308 crores.

(b) The Survey aims at providing a systematic and comprehensive account of the status of Indian languages diversity and multilingualism, inter lingual relationship and dynamics of languages. To do so, it will exploit advances in technology to document, prepare databases of different kinds, corpora of spoken and written varieties and produce a wide range of linguistic materials in both print and electronic form.

(c) As per Census 1991, there are 114 languages in the country 216 mother tongues, each of which is spoken by 10,000 more people, are listed under these languages.

(d) As per provisional data for 2001 Census, the number of languages of India has gone up from 114 to 122. The number of identifiable mother

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RAJYA SABHA

tongues, which have returned 10,000 or more speakers at the all India level, has also gone up to 234.

(e) The Survey will be conducted under the aegis of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Status of educational standards of minorities

3374. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of educational standards of minorities in the country;
- (b) whether Government have taken any measures to improve the educational standards of minorities in the country;
- (c) whether any separate funding plan for providing education to minorities;
- (d) whether Government have any plan to modernize the education; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) No survey has been done by the Central Government to determine the educational standards of various minorities in the country. While several schemes are being implemented to improve the educational standard, under the Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernisation Programme the Government is giving assistance through State Governments to volunteering Madaras to teach modern subjects like science, Mathematics, social studies etc. According to the instructions of the Planning Commission, wherever possible, 15% of the funds is earmarked for the benefit of minority communities. Modernisation is a continuous process and steps are taken by the Government as and when found necessary.